

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 18-98—HB 5254

Human Services Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION FEES

SUMMARY: By law, the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Office of Child Support Services provides services to recipients of public assistance, such as Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), as well as to those who are not recipients. This act raises the (1) annual fee that, by law, the office must charge for child support services provided to individuals who are not TFA recipients and (2) the threshold at which the fee is imposed.

Under prior law, if an individual had never received TFA and the state had collected at least \$500 of child support on the individual's behalf in a one-year period, the office imposed an annual fee of \$25 for each case in which it provided these services. The act raises these amounts to \$550 and \$35, respectively.

The Office of Child Support Services is the state's IV-D agency under the federal Social Security Act (i.e., the Child Support Enforcement Program), and the increases under the act conform to a requirement in federal law (P.L. 115-123, see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123)

Under federal law, Title IV-D agencies provide child support services to families who receive cash and other types of public assistance. Generally, Child Support Enforcement Program costs are shared by state and federal governments, as are fees and recovered costs. Title IV-D agencies may provide child support services to families not receiving any assistance, but these families must pay certain fees unless the state opts to pay the federal portion of the fee out of state funds. Federal legislation passed in 2018 increases the (1) annual user fee from \$25 to \$35 and (2) minimum amount of child support collected in order for the fee to be assessed from \$500 to \$550 (P.L. 115-123 (§ 53117)).